

Warbling Song of the Hudsonian Chickadee.— In 'Birds of Labrador,' by Dr. Charles W. Townsend and Mr. Glover M. Allen, published in the 'Proceedings' of the Boston Society of Natural History in 1907, the authors discuss at length the subject of the song of the Hudsonian Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus*), which seems to have escaped the attention of observers till Rev. Horace W. Wright heard it at Ipswich, Mass., Nov. 12, 1904, and mentioned it in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXII, 1905, p. 87. For the convenience of readers who may not have the original paper at hand it may be well to recapitulate the other records there brought together. The same or a similar warbling song was heard by Mr. Wright at Belmont, Mass., Nov. 25, 1904; by Dr. Townsend at four different places on Cape Breton Island in August, 1905 (Auk, Vol. XXIII, 1906, p. 178); by C. H. Clark at Lubeck, Me., Feb. 11, 1906 (Journal Maine Orn. Soc., Vol. VIII, 1906, p. 27); by Dana W. Sweet on Mt. Abraham, near Phillips, Me., June 22, 1906 (Journal Maine Orn. Soc., Vol. VIII, 1906, p. 83); by Mr. Sweet, Jan. 19, 1905 (letter to Dr. Townsend); and by Dr. Townsend and Mr. G. M. Allen at Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, July 6, 1906. To this list I can now add one more observation. Near the top of Mt. Moosilauke, N. H., Sept. 29, 1909, I heard a short strain of bird-song which I at once suspected to be the Hudsonian Chickadee's warble. I soon saw the author and found that my suspicions were correct. I observed it for some time at close range and heard it sing again and again. The song was a short one but took two or more forms, one of which I set down at the time as bearing some slight resemblance to the syllables *wissipawiddlee*, though this rendering conveys no clear impression of its warbling quality. The final syllable was sometimes trilled and sometimes pure. It seemed to me that the song corresponded exactly to the *phabe* song of the Black-capped Chickadee (*P. atricapillus*), but it was also strangely suggestive of the song of Bicknell's Thrush!— of the qualities of that thrush's song that are peculiarly its own (or shared by the typical subspecies *Hyllocichla alicia*), not those which are common to the genus and which we are accustomed to speak of as "thrushlike." The suggestion of the common Chickadee's song was in the bare outline of it, while it was the elaboration and the tone that suggested *H. a. bicknelli*. The correspondence of

the two Chickadee songs might be expressed thus: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{wissipa- widdlee} \\ \textit{phæ- bee} \end{array} \right\}$.

It seemed to me as if *P. hudsonicus*, starting with a simple song like that of its relative, had evolved the other after listening to and imitating the thrushes with which it shared its breeding-grounds, or perhaps that the identical environment had operated to produce the same peculiar quality in the songs of two widely different species of birds.

One of the most remarkable things about this song of the Hudsonian Chickadee is its rarity. Mr. William Brewster's testimony on this point is interesting. In 'Birds of the Cambridge Region,' 1906, p. 379, he says, referring to the reports of Mr. Wright and Mr. Clark cited above: "I have

never heard anything of the kind from the Hudsonian Chickadee, although I am reasonably familiar with that species, having had abundant opportunities for studying its notes and habits in the forests of northern New England, where I have met with it on many different occasions and during every month of the year except April." My own experience, though not nearly so extensive, is yet corroborative as far as it goes, for I have seen the bird frequently in the month of June on its breeding-grounds in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Nova Scotia, but had never heard anything like a song from it before the occasion now recorded.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

Finding of Three Rare Nests in New Jersey.—The Pine Warbler (*Dendroica vigorsi*) is described as a common summer resident in the pine barrens of New Jersey, but no nest had been recorded until 1908. On May 13 of that year I was fortunate enough to discover a nest in the process of building near Tuckahoe, N. J. It contained four eggs on May 22 and was then secured for my collection.

It seems strange that a bird, which is so abundant in the pine barrens, which has been noted in the summer repeatedly by ornithologists, and whose nest has been diligently searched for in this section by well-known collectors, should not before this have suffered the discovery of its home. Some light is thrown on the problem by the difficulty I experienced in locating this one, even after I was positive of the tree which contained it. In the first place, the nest was placed at the top of a tall pine tree; second, when seen from below it precisely resembled a large pine cone; third, the birds were unusually quiet in the vicinity of the home, standing for five minutes at a time like statues, and very cautious not to betray the nest.¹ Since the discovery I have learned that Mr. H. H. Hann found two nests of this bird at Chatsworth in 1904, but did not record them.

On May 22, 1908, near Tuckahoe, N. J., I found a nest of *Anas rubripes tristis* containing nine eggs. On May 26 the eggs had increased to twelve, which were then surrounded and separated from each other by tufts of down. The nest itself was perfectly concealed among high grasses at the foot of a maple tree, one of the few deciduous trees in the vicinity.²

The locality chosen by the duck is as wild and secluded a one as can be found on the Jersey coast. It is a pine point which juts out from the mainland into the meadows. Behind it is a barrier of almost impassable swamp, five miles long and two miles wide. Before it are miles of meadows stretching clear to the horizon, where only a line of blue betrays the coast islands. To reach the point requires persistent toiling through masses of briars and constant wading through water, which often rises above the knees. It is to such seclusion that the few members of this species which still nest in the State are compelled to resort. What a marked contrast this is to the

¹ For detailed account see 'Cassinia,' 1908, p. 32.

² For detailed account see 'Cassinia,' 1908, p. 37.